Statement regarding Escape of Prisoners from Tihar Jail

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I am on a point of order. Mr. Chairman, you will recall that the other day when on the Jammu & Kashmir a statement was to be made and it was the Minister of Human Resources Develoment who made the statement, I had drawn the attention of the House that it would be in the fitness of things if the Home Minister makes the statement and, if not, then the Minister of State, but I was told that the Home Minister is out and the Minister of State is unwell. Now, today the Miister of Internal Security who is also a Minister of State, he is present in the House but get he is not to make the statement. I do not know if the question of jail administration is in the exclusive charge of Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, then it would be ...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): Sir, may I just clarify? The department of jails comes under the Minister of State who is looking after the Centre-State relations, Mr. Mirdha. I have no objection at all because jail administration is looked after by my colleague and the rest of it is by me. If the hon. Members want, we both can... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Advani has withdrawn.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Sir, at about 2.50 P.M., on 16th March, 1986, the Superintendent, Central Jail, was informed by Deputy Superintendent, Jail, Incharge Jail No. 3, that some prisoners had escaped from Jail No. 3. The Superintendent, Central Jail, along with some officials rushed to the spot and an alarm was sounded. The Superintendent found that persons, who were on duty at the gate of Jail No. 3, were lying in a state of semi-consciousness. These included Assistant Superintendent, Jail, on duty, two Warders, and two Constables from Tamil Nadu Special Police. The S.H.O. Janakpuri and Police Control Room as well as senior officers were informed. Counting of prisoners was also undertaking and it was found that the following 7 prisoners were missing and had escaped:—

1. Charles Shobraj S|O Hoth Chand (U|T).

2. Laxmi Narain S/O Goman Singh (U|T).

3. Ajay Singh S|O Vijay Singh (U|T).

4. Brij Mohan S|O Lokman (U|T).

5. Bajrang Lal S|O Ram Gopal (U|T).

6. Bhola Ram S|O Rati Ram (Convict).

7. Dinesh Kumar S|O Jiwan Singh (Convict).

The staff on duty at the Main Gate of Jail No. 3 in varying state of unconsciousness were taken to Jail Hospital and thereafter shifted to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. Further facts of the case will be known when these people make statements.

On receipt of the information, the police Control Room immediately flashed messages to all the other States and declared a Red Alert and started a hunt for the escapees. Through Interpol, information has also been sent to other countries.

Seven Jail officials including one Asstt. Superintendent, Jail, 4 Warders and two Constables of Tamil Nadu Special Police have been arrested. Eight Jail officials including one Deputy Superintendent of Jail No. 3 and one Assistant Superintendent, four Warders besides two Constables of Tamil Nadu Special Police have been placed under suspension. The Police have also registered a case and is conducting investigations. The Lt. Governor, Delhi who also visited the Jail has ordered an enquiry to be conducted by Shri S.D. Lakhar, a senior officer of the Delhi Administration, and at present Chair-

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

man, Civil Supplies Corporation. He will be assisted by Shri B.L. Anand, and Additional District Magistrate. The term of reference of the enquiry are as follows:-

(a) To determine and inquire into the sequence of events and the circumstances leading to the escape of Charles Shobraj and six other prisoners from the Central Jail No. 3, Tihar, New Delhi, in the afternoon of 16th March, 1986.

(b) To fix responsibility for negligence or lapses, if any, on the part of the officials and security personnel posted at the Jail.

(c) To determine the shortcomings and weaknesses in Jail Administration and to suggest remedial measures therefor.

(d) Any other matter having bearing on the security and safety of the Jail.

The report will be submitted by the Enquiry Officer within one month.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, when the poet said: Stone walls do not make a prison, nor iron bars a cage, I wondered whether he had Charles Shobraj in mind. This is both secandalous and a matter of shame that an internationally notorious criminal like Charles Shobraj should have been allowed to escape in the manner he did, from a so-called high security prison in the heart of India's capital, New Delhi. Tihar Jail being here in the capital of India, one should have thought was escape-proof. Even ten years back, a similar escape was planned and executed in Tihar and after that I was under the impression that all steps should have been taken, particularly because you know the type of criminals, the type of convicts and undertrials with high profiles, which Tihar Jail accommodates. I do not have to name them. It is a matter which is well-known that it includes spies who have been involved in spy scandal recently, in the espionage scandal, and the businessmen involved is huge scandals worth crores of rupees, and all sorts of high-profile criminals and alleged racketeers are accomodated in Tihar. When this is so, a well-planned and premeditated escape has been executed. It has all the trappings of high drama. I only wish this was something like a movie; but it is not so. It is something which has really taken place. Here we have the story at least from the press reports; now we have Minister's statement before us which does not have all the embellishments of the press. Perhaps, the press have gone into it in greater details. Still the fact is that the person like Shobraj was allowed to roam about freely in the jail and he is supposed to have said; Charles Shobraj has got any sort of freedom and he said it in one of the many interviews. What is most surprising is, lot of people have had day-to-day interviews with him—many journalists—and he had two biographers. And to them he said: All that Charles Shobraj requires is a car outside. This he said on one occasion. On another occasion, one of his biographers after a lengthy interview says: 'On a tropical afternoon, when the guards doze and flies buzz... It reads like a novel, and it has been executed. What has been written has come about, and we have before us something which is more of a *fait accompli*. What the Government is now trying to do is only to close the stable door after the horse has fled. Sir, borders of India, which is so wide and large, are open. I am at least sure, even if Interpol is not, that Charles Shobraj would have definitely found a way out of this country into—say for Heavens—somewhere else.

The real point at issue is not just a commission or an enquiry under some Senior administrative oofficer. Most of the points have come in the press. I would like to know from the Government whether the Government contemplates, not just an enquiry by a senior civil servant, it is not such a small matter that it can be dealt with; with due respect to Shri Lakhar—I do not know about him and I have no comments to offer—this is a matter which warrants an investigation under the Commission of Inquiry Act by a sitting or by a retired

Supreme Court Judge, and I would like to know whether the Government will come forward to do that. Secondly, whether, at least in the light of this, the Government will go into the entire sordid happenings which are taking place in Tihar Jail, about which so much has been written in the press and outside and about which I am sure the Government will have much more information than anybody else. Thirdly I want to know what the Government propose to do. They have sought the help of Interpol but still just seeking the help of Interpol and having a red alert all over the world is not going to get you goods. Of course, you will be doing your best, but whether a special squad of Central Bureau of Investigation or super sleuth agency of the Government of India will be set up only to track down these types of criminals wherever they are. These are the three specific questions I would like to ask on this occasion.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir this is really a great escape. It is true that the escape of Charles Shobraj has all the elements of a mystery novel Sir, a few things arise out of this episode. Firstly, how was it that Shobraj was allowed to relax in the office room of the Assistant Jailor or the Assistant Superintendent of Jails? Secondly, Gate No. 3 was unguarded. According to reports, nobody can enter Gate No. 3 without express permission obtained from the jail authorities. This was not done. The car enters through this gate inside the jail and goes to the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Jails. How did it happen? Thirdly, Sir, the Press report is that there was birthday celebration in the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Jails. Sweets were distributed and it is made out that because of the sweets which they ate over the celebration, they became, the staff became, unconcious. Is it permitted to carry sweets from outside without the permission of the jail authorities? Fourthly, Sir,... (*Interruption*). My friend here Mr. Jaswant Singh, is asking whether they can take sweets..

AN HON. MEMBER: Fruit custard.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Lastly, Sir, there was a car in which two people were there. The person who drove the car was wearing khaki uniform. It should have given room for suspicion. But they were not spotted, they enterted the jail, within the walls of the jail. Sir, the whole episode brings out clearly that there was collusion between the jail authorities and the escapees, those who have escaped from the jail. Otherwise, it would not have been possible. It was a plan in which the jail authorities co-operated actively. Sir, my friend just now said that the jail authorities and the Government knew the type of criminal he was. Having known the character of this criminal, no precautions were taken. There was no strict vigilance. He has given liberty to move about freely in the jail and his escape, shall I say royal escape,...

AN HON. MEMBER: Great escape.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : It was a great escape no doubt. This would not have been possible but for the collusion of the jail authorities. True, Sir, the Lt. Governor has taken immediate steps to start an enquiry and he has done his duty all right. But the whole thing smacks of negligence of duty, callousness and a great lapse on the part of the jail authorities. Therefore, I would like the Minister to enlighten the House with more details, how it is that this was allowed to happen at all.

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): Sir, it was shocking and rather shameful for the entire country. I do not know whether the Government is shameful or shameless, but for the countr it was a shameful incident which took place yesterday. Sir, the state of affairs of Tihar Jail has been discussed many times on the floor of both the Houses. For example, on December 16, 1981, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs

[SHRI K. MOHANAN]

made the following statement on the floor of the other House:

"The Delhi Administration have reported that eight cases of securing release, attempting to secure release on the basis of forged court orders|others documents have come to their notice since December, 1979. These cases involve 11 persons. Of these, only 5 persons succeeded in getting released. Attempts of the remaining 6 were foiled by timely detection. Four of the five persons who secured their release have since been apprehended. After investigation into these incidents certain charges have been made in the assisgnment of duties....."

This is one statement which was given in regard to Tihar Jail. Again, on 30th March, 1983, in reply to a Starred Question in the other House, the then Home Affairs Minister, Shri Venkatasubbaiah said:

"The Delhi Administration have reported that on 2.3.1983 one Revinder Kumar *alias* Ravi who was undergoing imprisonment for life in Tihar Jail, was brought from the Camp Jail to the Central Jail Hospital for medical treatment. After meeting the Resident Medical Officer, the convict was being escorted back to the Camp jail by two Warders of the Jail. After going some distance a motor cycle is reported to have come from the direction of the Camp jail and stopped near the convict. Immediately, thereafter the convict and one Warden jumped on the motor cycle which then sped away."

So, these are the things. I have my own experience in Tihar Jail. (*Interruptions*). Yes, some years back I was myself detained in Tihar Jail for violating prohibitory orders in New Delhi. In our block narcotic smugglers were also detained. I have seen how they are living there. They are living like Maharajas, with servants, with 'Ws'. They can get any type of 'W' that is wine, woman or anything, with money. This Tihar jail is a hell for an ordinary convict but it is a paradise for the people like Shobraj. This is the stable of affairs there. Here the 'Hindustan Times' has reported that in an operation lasting barely 20 minutes and which showed all indications of thorough planning, the prisoners made the jail staff eat sweets, grapes and fruit cream—all drugged—to celebrate one of theirs 'birthday'. Look at the state of affairs. The Officers are celebrating birthdays with prisoners and international criminals. Are not shameful? Is it accidental? Was it the first time? It was not the first time in the history of Tihar Jail and this happened under to your very nose.

Not only that, in the Statement of the Minister one of the terms reference of the enquiry is and I quote:

"(b) To fix responsibility for negligence or lapses, if any, on the part of the officials and security personnel posted at the Jail."

Do you think this is mere negeligence or lapse? No, I don't think. This is not even a judicial enquiry, this is a simple enquiry by a civil officer. There is no reference at all to see whether these Jail officials had any connection with the smuggling agencies or the underworld gangs. There is no reference at all. It is simply negligence and dereliction of duty. Is it negligence or lapse? No, it is not. I would like to know whether you are prepared to look into the conduct of these officials. Not only these officials, but, Sir, I think the entire episode, this entire story which has appeared in the press, is only a cover, is a smokescreen to save somebody else. Without the help of some important persons in the higher echelons, this would not have happened. That is my impression, Sir. Any top secret of this country you will get from the pavements of Delhi. And *from the official residence s of the Prime Minister and President of this country. This is what is the reality of this country. Where are we going? You have failed... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL (Punjab): You are most irresponsible. It is a shame on you. (*Interruptions*)

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: These are realities. So many... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you, please sit down. Mr. Mohanan, you also please. Did you at least hear what he said? He said, files are disappearing from the President's office and Prime Minister's office. I do not see what is wrong in saying that?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Was it not that the Prime Minister was assassinated by persons posted inside the residence of the Prime Minister? Was it not that a person from the Prime Minister's Secretariat was removed on espionage charge?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mohanan, you please continue without any reference.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: No reference, these are facts. You have failed to protect the life of the V.I.Ps. of this country. You have failed to keep the secrets of this country. And now you have failed to contain a person like this notorious international criminal. How are these things going on? And a separate Ministry for Internal Security has been formed for the security of this country. What is going on? I do not know how many Home Ministers are there now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The more the merrier.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: But I am nat going into that point (*Interruptions*) Sir my question is.... (*Interruptions*) I am coming to my questions. You are not shameful. That is my complaint. Now I am coming to my questions... (*Interruptions*) Why do you laugh? Instead of suspending these persons, is Government prepared to put all the officials who were at that time on duty in Tihar jail under suspension and institute a criminal case against them in the court instead of having a mockery of inquiry?

My second question is, whether Government is prepared to institute a public enquiry and to include in the terms of reference whether any officials of the Tihar jail have any connections with these people of the underworld.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Advani.

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : (मध्य प्रदेश) : सभापति जी, मेरे साथी श्री गुरूपदस्वामी जी और श्री रामकृष्णन जी ने जिक्र किया कि जैसे मानों कोई फिल्म हो रही हो वैसा कुछ हुआ है। लेकिन मैं यह मानता हूं कि फिल्मों में भी, जो बिल्कुल घटिया, थर्ड रेट बाम्बे की फिल्में होती हैं, उन्हीं में इस प्रकार की घटनाएं होती है। मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूं कि साधारणतया, ऐसी घटनाएं जब फिल्मों में दिखाई जाती हैं तो दर्शक सोचता है कि अधिकारी क्या कभी इतने निकम्मे हो सकते हैं कि इतने सहज रूप से कोई कैदी भाग जाये। लेकिन मैं मानता हूं कि इस घटना में प्रदर्शित अधिकारियों के निकम्मेपन ने बम्बई की घटिया फिल्मों को भी विश्वसनीयता दे दी है, एक क्रेडिबिलिटी दे दी है कि हां भाई ऐसा भी हो सकता है कि किसी को बस कस्टर्ड खिलाकर, अंगूर खिलाकर, ड्रग्स डाल कर सुला दो, लिटा दो और बढ़िया फर्स्ट क्लास कार में सातों लोग बैठकर चले जायें।

सभापति जी, मैं आज इस मामले के बारे में जब पुरानी कतरनें देख, रख रहा था तो मेरे सामने एक कतरन पिछले मार्च की आई, एक साल पहले की आई। एक साल पहले की 'टाईम्स आफ इण्डिया' का कतरन है, जिसको पढ़ कर मैं दंग रह गया क्योंकि उसमें है—

I quote from the *Times-of-India* of 5th March 1985:—

"A member of the notorious Raju Bhatnagar gang now in Tihar Central Jail, by name Laxmi Narain"—the name is Laxmi Narain who is No. 2 in the list that has just been given to us by the Minister—"would have managed to get out of the jail but for the timely discovery that about 50 warrants issued against him had been torn by a convict.

The incident has shaken up the jail authorities as it has brought to light not only their own lapses which could have created a major scandal but have also shown the power that gangs like

[श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवानी]

that of Raju Bhatnagar exercise in this jail."

एक साल पहले की 'टाईम्स आफ इंडिया' की रिपोर्ट है जो एक प्रकार से वार्निंग है। वैसे तो यह अचानक आ गया है 'टाईम्स आफ इंडिया' में, अन्यथा इस राजू भटनागर गेंग की जो स्थिति है तिहाड़ जेल में या चार्ल्स सोबराज की जो स्थिति है तिहाड़ जेल में, उसके बारे में पता नहीं कितनी सारी अखबारों में कहानियां छपी हुई हैं। वह पुस्तकों का उल्लेख कर रहे हैं, वर्णन कर रहे थे। मैं बहुत विस्तार में नहीं जाऊंगा इतना जरूर कहूंगा कि कल की जो घटना है, उसके विषय में जो चाहे आप उत्तर दे दें, चाहे जितनी इन्क्वायरीज करवा लें, चाहे जितने लोगों को सस्पेंड कर दें, गृह मंत्रालय पर कभी न मिटने वाला धब्बा है, कभी और उसके लिये जो आपका रेस्पांस है, वह रेस्पांस इतना फीबल है, इतना वीक, है, इतना अनेमिक है कि आप अधिक से अधिक एक दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के ही अधिकारी को नियुक्त करते हैं कि आप जांच करो। किसी सुपरिन्टेंडेंट के खिलाफ भी एक्शन नहीं लेते, आई० जी० प्रिजन्स, डी० आई० जी० प्रिजन्स के खिलाफ भी एक्शन नहीं लेते क्योंकि मैं यह मानता हूं,..... (व्यवधान)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The Home Minister should resign.

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : फिर यह टर्म्स आफ इन्क्वायरी सही है क्या? जैसा कि मोहनन् जी ने कहा टर्म्स आफ इन्क्वायरी जिसमें लिखा है, नेग्लिजेंस आर लेप्सेज--

He himself has tried to shield these culprits. It is not negligence, it is not a lapse. At least, prima facie there is clear collusion. नहीं तो हो ही नहीं सकता।

सभापति जी, मैं जानता हूं कि जो मैं सवाल पूछूंगा, उन सवालों का सब का उत्तर होगा कि इन्क्वायरी हो रही है। अगर मैं इस घटना के बारे में सवाल पूछूंगा तो कहेंगे कि इन्क्वायरी हो रही है, जांच होगी, उसके बाद कुछ-होगा।

इसीलिए मैं घटना के बारे में विस्तार से नहीं पूछूंगा। उसका वर्णन अखबारों में छपा है, मेरे साथियों ने कहा है।

मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि जेल एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के बारे में श्री आनन्द नारायण मुल्ला के नेतृत्व में एक आयोग बनाया गया था और उस आयोग की रिपोर्ट कब आई थी। मेरी जानकारी में मार्च 1983 में आई थी। पूरे तीन साल हो गये। तीन साल में क्या कार्यवाही की गई? सुरक्षा के बारे में उन्होंने कई बातें कही थीं। उनके बारे में क्या कार्यवाही की गई?

मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि श्री अरूण नेहरू जो यहां पर बैठे हुए है, कुछ समय पहले स्वयं तिहाड़ जेल में गये थे। मैं नहीं जानता कि वह चार्ल्स सोबराज से मिले कि नहीं मिले.... (व्यवधान)

श्री शोधर वासुदेव धावे (महाराष्ट्र) देखा तो जरूर होगा।

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी: लेकिन जब वह वहां गये थे, तो अखबारों में यह प्रकाशित हुआ कि उन्होंने बहुत सारी लैप्सेज, वहां पर पाई, बहुत वहां पर ढिलाई पाई क्या ढिलाई उन्होंने पाई और उस ढिलाई के बारे में उन्होंने क्या निर्देश और आदेश दिये और उन निर्देशों और आदेशों का पालन कितना हुआ मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा क्योंकि केवल अरुण नेहरू जी नहीं लेफ्टिनेंट-गवर्नर साहब भी जो हमारे साथ ही रहे, इस सदन के श्री कपूर साहब, यह भी वहां पर कई बार गये और उन्होंने भी बहुत ढिलाई पाई और उन्होंने भी कई निर्देश दिये? वह क्या निर्देश थे? उनका कितना पालन हुआ, यह भी जरा बता दें। मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि इस विषय को लेकर बहुत कुछ छप रहा है कि एक तरफ तो नरक जैसी जिंदगी प्रिजनर्स वहां पर बिताते हैं और दूसरी ओर पांच-सितारा जैसी, वी०आई०पी० जैसी जिंदगी वैसी चार्ल्स सोबराज जैसे बिता रहे है। यह बिडम्बना क्यों?

यह इसलिए हो सकता है कि जेल मैन्युअल का बिल्कुल पालन नहीं होता। इस जेल मैन्युअल के पालन के बारे में सरकार क्या कुछ करती रही है तिहाड़ जेल के अंदर जो कि केन्द्र में है, दिल्ली में है?

मैं सुझाव देना चाहूंगा कनक्रीट सुझाव कि क्या गृह मंत्रालय इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि तिहाड़ जेल में जो कुछ होता है वह सारे हिन्दुस्तान के जेल एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन को प्रभावित करता है क्योंकि तिहाड़ जेल के बारे में कई बार यह कहा जाता है कि हम इसको माडल जेल बायेंगे तो क्या सरकार इस बात को स्वीकार करेगी कि कम से कम एक सर्वदलीय संसद् की एक समिति बनाई जाय, जो समिति जाकर वहा पर देखे एक तरफ जो यह नर्क जैसी स्थितियां है, यहां पर ड्रग-एडिक्ट्स बनते हैं, यहां पर क्रिमिनल बनते हैं, यहां पर सब प्रकार की विकृतियां पनपती हैं, जिनको प्रत्यक्ष में हम में से कईयों ने देखा है । मेरे पीछे बैठी हुई श्रीमती विजया राज सिंधिया जी इस पर काफी विस्तार से वर्णन कर सकती हैं कैसे वहां पर व्यवहार होता है। एक तरफ तो यह रुख है और दूसरी तरफ जो पैसे के बलबूते पर बड़े-बड़े स्मगलर्स, नोटोरियल स्मगलर्स, चार्ल्स शोभराज जैसे लोग जिस प्रकार की वी०आई०पी० ट्रीटमेंट प्राप्त कर सकते हैं उसको रोका जाय। क्या इसके लिए सरकार तैयार है ?

आखिरी सवाल यह है आपने सात नाम दिए हैं । प्रिजनर्स में कई प्रकार के लोग होते हैं। और उनमें से कुछ लोग, जिनका क्राइम-रिकार्ड बहुत नोटोरियस होता है, श्री चार्ल्स शोभराज उसमें से हैं, जिनका 15 साल का जो इतिहास, अपराध गाथा है, उस अपराध गाथा के कारण उन पर कोई भी सहज रुप से विश्वास नहीं कर सकता, इसलिए मेक्सिमम सिक्योरिटी प्रिजनर्स करके क्लेस फाईड करते हैं । तो क्या चार्ल्स शोभराज मेक्सिमम सिक्योरिटी प्रजिनर्स था ? अगर नहीं था, तो क्यों नहीं था ? अगर था, तो उसके साथ-साथ छः लोग जो हैं, उनमें से कौन-कौन मेक्सिमम सिक्योरिटी प्रिजनर्ज थे, सिक्योरिटी प्रिजनर होने का परिणाम क्या है और उसका कहां तक पालन हुआ ?

आखिरी बात, सभापति जी, जो, मैं भूल गया था, जो बहुत महत्व की है और खासकर के इनके बयान में से उठती है । इस बयान में बड़े गर्व के साथ मंत्री जी ने कहा – मैं सहानुभूति प्रकट करता हूं इस मंत्री जी से और मैं समझता हूं कि श्री शंकर राव जी आज बड़े खुश होंगे कि आज के मौके पर उनको यहां नहीं होना पड़ा वे चले गए बम्बई से, लेकिन रामनिवास जी के लिए मैं सहानुभूति प्रकट करता हूं उन्होंने कहां है कि

"On receipt of the information, the Police Control Room immediately flashed messages to all the other States and declared a Red Alert and started a hunt for the escapees. Through Interpol, information has also been sent to other countries."

I am really shocked at this kind of statement having been given to Mr. Ram Nirdha to read out.

सर, कल शाम तक मुझे पता लग गया था कि इस प्रकार की घटना हुई है। शाम 6 बजे से लेकर हम लोग इंतरजार करते रहे कि आकाशवाणी बोलेगा, हम इंतजार करते रहे कि दूरदर्शन बोलेगा, आखिर को सात अपराधी और उनमें से कुछ ऐसे हैं, जो बड़े खौफनाक अपराधी हैं, जो किसी की हत्या कर सकते हैं, ऐसे लोग बाहर निकले है, दोपहर ढाई बजे, जैसी सरकार ने सूचना दी है, ढाई बजे छूटे हैं, भागे हैं और रेड-एलर्ट किया जाता है, दुनियां के इंटरपोल को बताया जाता है, लेकिन दिल्ली के नागरिकों को नहीं बताया जाता है कि आप सावधान हो जाइए, आप सचेत हो जाइए और अगर आपके ध्यान में ऐसे अपराधी आएं तो सरकार को इतला दीजिए । इतनी छोटी सी बात नहीं कर सकते । यह किसकी जिम्मेदारी थी – आल इंडिया रेडियों की या दूरदर्शन की या आपके गृह मंत्रालय की, यह हम जानना चाहेंगे?

[श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी]

अगर मानो कोई घटना हो जाती और किसी की हत्या हो जाती तो दोष आप पर आता। इसलिये यह रेड-एलर्ट वाली बात में क्या दूरदर्शन के द्वारा और आकाशवाणी के द्वारा दिल्ली के सूनागरिकों को चित करना शामिल नहीं है, यह मेरा आखिरी सवाल है।

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA (Haryana): Sir, it was always known that Charles Shobraj was a wild, dangerous and a very clever criminal and that he had also been proclaiming to each and everybody who went to interview him that there was no jail in the world which can keep him for long inside. A foreign journalist was allowed to interview him. I do not know what class of criminal he was, what class of criminal he was, because, normally, I know, when we people were under detention under the MISA, no journalist was ever allowed to meet us or interview us. But when this Charles Shobraj, a dangerous criminal, was put inside, it was a matter of pride for everybody that he was being allowed to be interviewed by foreign journalists, and he did remark to those journalists, "What is there to escape? I need a high-speed car at my disposal outside the jail gate. The day I get it. I will go"

I do not know whether it is a coincidence that only yesterday the TV, the Doordarshan started a serial in the morning by the name of Sherlock Holmes. The first day it has happened. And afterwards we found the grand escape of Charles Shobraj. It is really surprising, shocking that the news of Charles Shobraj was not flashed in any major news item on the Doordarshan. His photograph was not flashed. I did see one announcement where Charles Shobraj's photograph was shown on the TV. It was just prior to 9.30. It was said that seven persons had escaped, out of which only Charles Shobraj's photograph was flashed on the TV just before 9.30 and none of his companion's photograph was flashed. From 2.30 to 9.30 no announcement was given and no photograph was flashed on TV. It is a very big gap.

Today we are living in such a state of alert because every second or third day we hear a news that some terrorist from Punjab or some terrorist from this or that area infilterated into Delhi. The whole Delhi police is on alert. Every half a mile there are policemen roaming here and there with walkie-talkie sets or wireless sets. This person escaped from Tihar Jail at 2.30. This is our security what to talk of catching terrorists. Every policemen in every police station must have known him by his photograph and by his face because Shobraj and his seven other companions were dangerous criminals and were lodged in Tihar Jail. But none of these people were apprehended. They could not have vanished in thin air. After all they must taken some route. And if they went by car, I can understand that even to cover a distance of thirty miles they must have required 25 minute or half an hour. In this area of Delhi with such a heavy traffic on the road, it is not easy to escape beyond 30 miles within 25 minutes. Where these people could have vanished outside the territorial limits of the national capital region. They could not have gone anywhere. I am really ashamed that in my State, Haryana, the law and order situation is in a very bad shape. If they have escaped there, they would not be arrested.

I would suggest a few points for your consideration. For such an incident as inquiry by an ordinary civil servant is not sufficient. Such an inquiry requires to be conducted by a sitting High Court or Supreme Court Judge.

Secondly, who were those people who were continuously in league or in attendance or in discussion or in friendly chat with Shobrai in or out of the jail authorities? We find that five or seven persons had gathered around Shobraj and joined in a birthday party. There must be people regularly in contact with him. That is why they easily agreed to have a party or cakes or pastries from him. After all they

must be regularly in league with those people. Who were those people? When did it come to the notice of the Government or the concerned authorities that such and such people were in league with Shobraj? If these people were known, why action not taken against them earlier? If it has been found now, why have they not been arrested? I agree with Shri Advani that it is not a case of lapse or negligence, it is a case of collusion. Who were the people who colluded with him? This is a matter of inquiry. Such type of an escape cannot be because of negligence but because of collusion. I think this kind of dramma of falling, fainting and sayig some people were locked in a room, the keys were taken, doors unlocked and they escaped in car was all pre-planned. Eevery body knew it and they were participants in the game because of the vast riches that were available to Charles Shobraj. How much and whom they had bribed has to be probed. Could any person of higher rank than the person concerned at the spot be involved in this drama? This is very important. I do not know what instructions are there in the Tihar Jail, but I would like to know whether there were instructions that none of the people employed, whether a guard, Warden, Superintendent, or any other should not be mixing with people of the character of the type of Charles Shobraj. If these instructions had been given, were they implemented or not? If not, then who are the people who were responsible for it and why action had not been taken earlier against such like people? I also want to know whether you have any inkling as to where they have escaped—whether they have escaped into Haryana or into U.P. which State have they escaped into? I am asking this question because the car is known; it was an Ambassador car of a particular colour and so many people were sitting inside. Everywhere you have barriers. I know in Delhi on all major roads, there are barriers, there are checks. When you cross into any State, there is a check, there is a barrier. It is not possible that anybody can elude the eye of the people at that barrier and just pass through during day-time. I want to know whether you have any information as to the direction in which they have escaped, into which State they have escaped. And finally I want to know whether they are in India now or they have escaped from India also.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): Sir, convicts have always escaped down the centuries. But they had to sweat and toil. They had to dig underground, maybe a couple of miles and get out. But yesterday's incident just shows that all you have got to do is to throw a birthday party and the jail staff will give you a present by letting you go. This is the shocking state of affairs at Tihar Jail and all the other jails in the country. There is corruption galore. And all small-time thieves and crooks do not want to leave Tihar Jail or any other jail because of the conforts they get, as my friend Mr. Advani mentioned. They have got all the comforts. As Mr. Ramakrishnan said, Charles Shobraj has said in his book that he was going to get away one day. I do not know how he was allowed to escape. There was a Senior Superintendent of the Jail who had given a complaint in writing that Charles Shobraj was being pampered by the Jail staff and that the whole administration had come to a halt. This complaint was made a couple of years back in writing. I do not know how cognizance was not taken of this particular aspect.

Sir, this was a Sunday, a holiday. Nobody is allowed to enter Tihar Jail on that day. I want to know how this particular car was allowed inside because that is the day when there is cleaning, etc., in Tihar Jail and nobody can go in. It just shows that there is collusion. Also I want to know what the real timing of this incident was. It is said that it was at 2.30. Is it a fact? There are doubts expressed. One newspaper report says that people around Tihar Jail were being questioned at about 11 o'clock as to whether they had seen the convicts. That means that this incident took place much earlier and the Government is trying to cover up. Either they are trying to cover up...

AN HON. MEMBER: Cover up what?

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Cover up the jail staff. Or you have colluded with these people. I do not know why, because as Mr. Advani said, All India Radio and Television were only activated at 8 o'clock.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: 9.30.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Yes, 9.30 That means, enough time was given to these people to leave. These are the doubts which I have got. Please answer them.

Also Charles Shobraj was lodged in Jail No. 1. High security risk criminals are kept in Jail No. 1. All the top criminals are there at the moment. And Charles Shobraj was there. When was he shifted to Jail No. 3, where not so big criminals, light-weight criminals are lodged? When you know his habit of always escaping from jails, how did he manage to get himself transferred to Jail No. 3? That also the Government will have to let us know. I would also like to know whether at least the car—you may not find the people—has been found. After 24 hours—you say it happened at 2.30 and we accept it; now it is 5 o'clock the next day—has at least the car been found? Also, was there any movement of planes or helicopters between 11 o'clock, or whatever the time you said he had escaped, and now at the Safdarjung Airport or at the Palam Airport? Does the Government propose to give a reward for the head of Charles Shobraj? I think the reward should be at least Rs. 10 lakhs. If you do that, I am sure even those six criminals with him, those who were murderers and hardened criminals, might come themselves and give this fellow back to us. You should give the maximum publicity over your TV and radio that you would give a big reward. The reward should be not just Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000 but should be, as I said, at least Rs. 10 lakhs. I am sure some local villager might come up with this fellow, if you offer that reward. My last question: Is the Government thinking in terms of a change of the entire law, the entire jail code or the jail mannual? Right now this entire matter, the jail part of it, comes under the Jail Police. It is said the police has nothing to do with it. Does the Government think of changing it in such a way that a singlepoint responsibility can be fixed in such lapses?

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): The successful escape of the hardened criminals naturally exposes the inbuilt inefficiency, deficiency, and the singular callousness of the administration. This could not have happened had there been no nexus between the criminals and the administration in the jail. It does not stop at that. This could not have been possible, had there been no collusion between these criminals of the underworld and some higher-ups in the authorities outside because the whols drama narrates a story of that kind. Therefore, my specific questions would be: (1) Prisioners are entitled to certain facilities as undertrial prisioners in the jail. The facilities are laid down in the jail code. We were prisoners; therefore, we know about the jail code. what were the facilities offered to these criminals, particularly to this shobraj . Is it not fact that he was enjoying certain facilities which he is not entitled to, but for certain patronage being shown by the jail authorities under instruction from outside? (2) Perhaps an ordinary inquiry with some terms of reference would not bring to light the full criminal activities in an escapade of this kind. Therefore, would not the Government desire to have full information made known to the public of this escapade and for that purpose, institute a commission of inquiry, as has been suggested by my colleague, under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, so that the whole thing can see the light of the day? (3) It is said that these criminals escaped in the maximum security area. If so, what must be happening if it were not a maximum security area but only a minimum security area. must be anybody's guess. I think that would bs an open jail. It means Tihar Jail is an open jail. Lastly (4) it is reported that the Minister of Internal Security visited the place several times and that the Lt. Governor also visited the place at least five times

after assumption of office as Lt. Governor. What were their findings? Did they issue any instructions? Can this House have the opportunity of listening to some statement from them so that we can also understand that the Government was sufficiently alert about the state of affairs inside the Tihar Jail?

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): The statement given by the Minister raises the gravest doubts that the Government is not very serious in apprehending the criminals who have escaped from the Tihar Jail. It is because the statement does not give us any information as to what efforts were made to nab these criminals when they left. He has left either by road or by rail or by air. But the statement does not give us the details as to what arrangements were made, what precautions were taken, in order to nab them either at the railway station or on the roads or at the airports or in the air. There is no information about that. Therefore, my first submission would be to request the Minister to let us know what arrangements were made what precautions were taken, to nab these criminals, if they had left either by road or by train or by air.

Secondly, it is stated that the senior police officials had indicated to the jail authorities about the vulnerability of this particular jail, jail No. 3, for possible escape by the criminals. Is it a fact that senior police officials had indicated the possibility of such an escape because of the valnerability of the gate of this jail, jail No. 3? If that is the case, then what steps have been taken by the jail authorities since this complaint was made by the police officials to prevent such possibilities? If no steps were taken, what was the reason and who would be held responsible for not taking precautions on the advice of senior police officials?

Thirdly, Sir, as has already been stated the Minister for Internal Security visited it several times...

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Several times.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:... and the Lt-Governor also visited it five times. I would like to know specifically from the two dignitaries as to what were the specific lapses which they found and whether they have monitored—this is more important, Sir—subsequently during their visits to the jail as to what steps had been taken on the lapses noticed by them? If no monitoring was done and if no steps were taken, why was there a lapse?

Then, Sir, I come to the next question. According to the newspaper reports, Charles Shobraj was in the room of the Assistant Jail Superintendent just before the escape took place. If this is the case, who gave him permission to be in that particular place which was very easy for anybody to escape from? What transpired on account of which he was brought to that place where he could move freely? After all, this informatiton has to be recorded because if anybody comes to the jail, he has to enter his name in a register and if anybody goes out, he has to enter his name. When that is the position, if the particular so-called police officer entered the jail and stated that he had to give a birth-day party, with all parephernalia, what was he entered as and whose permission had been obtained by him even to come there? Was he shown as a part of the jail set-up or was he shown as some outsider? If he had been shown as an outsider, under whose authority he could come there? If he was shown as a part of the jail set-up, whom did he specifically represent? I would like to have specific information on these points.

Then, Sir, I come to the next question. It is stated—and this is a known information—that Charles Shobraj was to be extradited to Thailand on a judgment given by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Delhi which was confirmed later by the Delhi High Court. But still no action was taken by the Central Government even though the extradition was confirmed by the Delhi High Court. What was the reason? What is it that made the decision to be postponed for such along period even after the High Court had ordered his extradition? Is it because—this is a very spe-

[Prof. C. Lakshmanna]

cific question, Sir—Charles Shobraj was not willing to go out of India as it was made out in the newspapers or is it because of a legal problem which was coming in the way of the Government of India giving the necessary permission for extradition of Charles Shobraj from India to Thailand?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Lastly...

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Yes, Sir, lastly, I would like to say one thing. This is the last point. Lastly, Sir, a car had come. There were two people in the car, and the third person comes into the jail. During that period there must have been somebody outside the car also guarding the jail, Has he made note of the car number? If the car number had not been noted, has he been interrogated as to why he did not note the number which was waiting for some time, may be for 15-20 minutes. If the car has been identified, has it been traced to any particular area? Is this information available?

Finally, Sir—really finally—Is it within the knowledge of the Government that two books 'Serpentine' and 'Life and Crimes of Charles Shobraj' have been published? It also describes as to what happens in Tihar Jail. Has the Government taken note of the various lapses which constantly take place at the Central Jail? If that is the case, what attempts were made by the Government of India, what attempts were made by the Delhi Administration, to look into the various things which have been described in these books and what corrections have been made to rectify these mistakes? It is very obvious, Sir, that if these mistakes had been rectified, Charles Shobraj would not have left. It is simple to understand that nothing was done; it was a sleeping administration and it is a sleeping faster administration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. S. P. Malviya.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, आज सुबह जब मेरे पास समाचार पत्र आया तो मैंने जब यह खबर पढ़ी कि तिहाड जेल से सात कैदी भाग गये हैं तो मुझे ऐसा लगा कि मैं सपना देख रहा हूं। उसके बाद मैंने बार-बार अखबार पढ़ा तो मुझे लगा कि मैं फिर सपना देख रहा हूं। मैंने चिगुटी काटी और उस चिगुटी काटने का असर हुआ। तब मुझे पता लगा कि यह खबर वास्तविक है और घटना हुई है क्योंकि अभी आडवाणी जी ने उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया कि कल 9 बज तक समाचारों में टेलीविजन और रेडियो पर इस प्रकार का कोई समाचार प्रसारित नहीं किया गया था। आप जानते हैं कि जेल मैनुअल के हिसाब से कुछ नियम और विनियम होते हैं। अगर जेल में कोई मिठाई, फ्रूटक्रीम या अन्य वस्तु आती है तो जेल के मैनुअल में लिखा हुआ है कि उसका परीक्षण होना चाहिए। ऐसी स्थिति में एक तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जितना भी सामान वहां आया क्या उसका परीक्षण किसी स्टेज पर किया गया था। दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इन अपराधियों में कम से कम दो अपराधी चार्ल्स शोभराज और राजू भटनागर—ऐसे थे जो अन्य जेलों से भागे थे। जेल के मैनुअल के अनुसार अगर कोई पहले जेल से भागा हुआ होता है तो उसके पैरों पर बेड़ियां लगी होनी चाहिए। इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जेल के इन नियमों के अनुसार इन चार कैदियों में से दो कैदियों के पैरों पर क्या बेड़ियां लगी हुई थीं या नहीं आप जानते हैं कि आज से ठीक दस वर्ष पहले 16 मार्च, 1976 को तिहाड़ जेल में इसी प्रकार की घटना घटी थी जिसमें 12 कैदी भाग गये थे। तीसरा मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल में जो कर्मचारी या अधिकारी भर्ती किये गये उनके संबंध में मेडिकल रिपोर्ट क्या है?

श्री सभापति : श्री रामचन्द्र विकल—अनुपस्थित।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आदरणीय सभापति, महोदय, मैं कर्तव्य की बड़ी गहरी भावना और बड़े दुःख के साथ आपके सामने यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं और विरोधी दल के नेताओं से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि तिहाड़ जेल में जो कुछ घटना घटी है, यह सरकार की नेग्लिजेन्स के

कारण नहीं (व्यवधान) । आप मेरी बात तो सुनिये बल्कि मैं समझता हूं कि यह राष्ट्रीय चरित्र के गिरावट का एक सबसे बड़ा प्रतीक है । चाहे प्रधान मंत्री की हत्या हो या प्रधानमंत्री सचिवालय के गुप्त दस्तावेजों को विदेशियों के हाथों में बेचने का सवाल हो या तिहाड़ जेल से किसी कुख्यात कैदी के भाग जाने का सवाल हो, यह इस बात का प्रतीक है कि हमारे देश के अधिकारी जो बड़े बड़े पदों पर हैं, वे बिक जाते हैं और ब्राइब कर लिये जाते हैं । आप जानते हैं आदरणीय श्री अरूण नेहरू, गृह राज्य मंत्री जी दो बार तिहाड़ जेल गये और दोनों बार उन्होंने दो बड़े बड़े अधिकारियों को मुअत्तिल किया । यह साबित करता है कि मिनिस्टिर होने की जिम्मेदारी को निभाते हुए ये खुद

10 P.M. तिहाड़ जेल गये, खुद दिल्ली के पुलिस थानों में रात के दो–दो बजे, तीन–तीन बजे चैकिंग करने गये और दोषी कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की और कई कर्मचारियों को मुअत्तिल भी किया । लेकिन जब जैल का सबसे बड़ा अधिकारी ही खुद दो–चार लाख रुपये लेकर जेल खोल दे और कैदी को भाग जाने दे तो यह राष्ट्रीय चरित्र की गिरावट नहीं तो क्या है? आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, आप इस बात से सहमत होंगे कि यह चीज पूरे नेशनल करेक्टर को दर्शा रही है। यह देश गुलाम ही इसलिये हुआ इस देश के बड़े बड़े अधिकारी, बड़े बड़े नेता अपनी जाति और सम्प्रदाय के झगड़े में लगे रहे और मुल्क मिट गया । आदरणीय सभापति महोदय मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हु कि क्या गृह मंत्री जी यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि देश के पैमाने पर जो अंग्रेजों के जमाने का बना हुआ - जेल मैनुवल है तो क्या वे इस पूरे कानून में इस तरह की तब्दीली इस तरह का बुनियादी परिवर्तन लायेंगे ताकि इस तरह का घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति न हो सके । आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, दूसरी जानकारी मुझे यह करनी है कि न केवल तिहाड़ जेल में बल्कि हिन्दुस्तान के तमाम राज्यों के जेलों में इस तरह की घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति हो रही है तो इन प्रदेशों के जेलों के नियमों, कानूनों में क्या आप इस तरह से वैज्ञानिक ढ़ग से परिवर्तन करेंगे जिससे कि ऐसी घटनायें न हो सकें । इन कानूनों में संशोधन करने के लिये सभी विरोधी दलों के नेताओं के साथ बैठकर वैज्ञानिक ढ़ग से ऐसे कानून बनायें, उसमें आडवाणी जी का भी योगदान हो, ताकि इस तरह की घटनायें न घट सकें।

तीसरा निवेदन मुझे यह करना है कहा गया है कि यह जो चार्ल्स शोभराज है, इससे मिलने के लिये बड़े बड़े पत्रकार और बहुत से लोग अतिथि के नाम पर वहां जाकर जेल मैनुअल के तहत मिलते रहे। तो क्या सरकार ऐसे उपाय करेगी जिससे भविष्य में इस तरह के अन्तराष्ट्रीय कुख्यात अपराधी, जनघाती या राष्ट्रघाती या इसी तरह के लोगों को मिलने का अवसर न दिया जाय ।

आखिरी सवाल आदरणीय सभापति जी, मेरा यह है कि क्या सरकार पूरे देश के इंटलीजेंस सिस्टम को साइंटिफिक ढंग से रिस्ट्रक्चरिंग करने की कोशिश करेगी ताकि इस तरह की घटनाओं की हमारे देश में भविष्य में पुनरावृत्ति न हो ।

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have heard with great attention all that the hon. Members have said and I share the shock and regret that such a thing should have happened and notorious dacoits and other types of criminals should have escaped from the Tihar Jail just right in the capital of our country.

Sir, the moment it was known that the prisoners have escaped, whatever drill to follow up an incident of that nature was necessary, was gone through. We alerted the neighbouring States. We alerted all the airports and all the foreign countries through Interpol. The search for them was activised and is still continuing. Lt. Governor went to the spot at the earliest opportunity. He reviewed the whole thing and apart from the regrettable happening, whatever was necessary and whatever was

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

needed to be done after it came to light was very expeditiously gone into and followed. We are still trying to pursue the whole thing in a very serious and determined way so that these people and particularly Shobraj, an international gangster and a criminal of sorts of international ramifications is caught and that such things—I stress the words "such things"—do not recur.

A lot has been said about the type and nature of the committee that we have set up. It is a very limited administrative committee just to go into the various things that have been mentioned, such as administrative lapses and things of that nature. Many hon. Members mentioned about possible collusion or link-up which is much greater than can be made out from this committee. Sir, to that I would say that we have registered a case under IPC against the seven officers I have mentioned. Something unprecedented and one of the Sections under which the FIR has been filed is that of conspiracy—Section 120B, which means how these persons colluded or could have colluded with one another or with some outside agency, whatever it is. And we have not left it to the normal administrative enquiry that has been set up. That is for a different purpose. But so far as the vast possible ramifications of a crime of this nature an escape of this nature is concerned, everything will be gone into in this investigation. If I can remember, this is the only occasion when a case of conspiracy and a lapse of duty, etc. has been filed against officers themselves apart from suspending them which is a normal administrative procedure. This is a measure of the seriousness with which we look at the whole thing. We have no intention of hushing up or covering up any of our lapses or hiding or a sort of protecting any person who is involved. And I can assure you Mr. Chairman, Sir, and through you, the House, that we have taken it very seriously. We will go into all its aspects, those who are concerned in this incident as well as what needs to be done later on. This exactly answers the point that we have taken it lightly. We have not taken it lightly. We have taken it very seriously and this is how it is going to happen. It was mentioned why Sobhraj was allowed to stay even after the extradition was ordered. Mr. Lakshmanna mentioned that. He had filed an appeal in the Supreme Court. And it was because of that we could not send him. And the legal procedure of an appeal was going through and that is why he was still in Tihar Jail.

Sir, a mention was made about the Mulla Committee. The Mulla Committee made a large number of recommendations of various natures. They made hundreds of recommendations actually. And it is a good report. They have gone into the whole administration of the jails, how the ladies could be segregated, how the child prisoners could be sort of protected and other administrative measures. The Delhi Administration did go into the various aspects of the Mulla Committee Report to see as to how it could be incorporated. I will see to what extent it was followed. And certainly large number of recommendations that were made have been implemented, and others would also be implemented. Sir, the problem at the Tihar Jail is—I readily admit—that it is overcrowded, and there is a paucity of staff. And we are trying to change the situation, rectify the situation from both the angles. We are trying to augment the staff, make it more professional, and try to see that right people are inducted to conduct and administer the Jail. As well as we have taken up land in Shahdara for having another Jail so that overcrowding could end and another type of jail could come up there for which we have acquired the land and taking steps. And right in a few months we will make some start from that point of view.

As regards broad general reform of the jail system which Shri Kalpnathji mentioned, we are very much conscious of that, and in this Plan itself, a large amount of Rs. 50 crores has been earmarked for reform of jail facilities and jail administration. We have offered it to the State Governments on a sharing basis and we

are very much conscious that the present jail system has to be reformed. The present Act was enacted in the last century. The Jail Manual needs reform and we will very seriously take up all these things and try to set things as well as we can. So, we do not think that inducting a committee of enquiry under a Judge at this moment woud be necessary because as I said this inquiry is only of a limited administrative nature. And other aspects, other ramifications of this by way of collusion, conspiracy, etc. will be taken care of in tha. we registered and which we propose to follow very urgently. Shri Arun Nehru visited it more than once as was mentioned. He suspended the people on the spot. LG is a very alert person and he also visited it on a number of occasions. But it seems the problems are so vast in Tihar that we will have to take many more serious steps to see that this type of thing does not recur far from recurring, we will see that even minor incidents of contravention about drugs, induction of drugs there and breaches of the Jail Manual do not take place. Obviously the Jail Manual has been contravened in many respects. Now did the car go inside? How did the sweets go inside? Under the rules they could not have gone. On Sundays you cannot have visitors. How did the visitors go inside? All these things are of an administrative nature and after the administrative inquiry and investigations, we will pursue the things seriously and see that everyone concerned with this ghastly and dastardly crime will be brought to book. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Now, you have not said anything as to why the A.I.R. and the Doordarshan did not give out this news. (*Interruptions*)

इंटरपोल को बता सकते हैं, दुनिया को बता सकते हैं लेकिन दिल्ली के नागरिक को सचेत नहीं कर सकते हैं। मान लो गलती हो गयी कह दो फिर से गलती नहीं होगी।

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will allow only one question to be answered. Why was not this information put on the media, so that the people might have been able to apprehend them immediately?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Well, Sir, we will look into this.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE —*contd.*

Notification of the Ministry of Finance (Deparmtent of Revenue) and related paper

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 10 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, a copy (in Engish and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification No. 210/86-Customs, dated the 17th March, 1986, amending Notification No. 110-Customs, dated the 17th February, 1986, relating to notified Projects under Heading No. 98.01 of the said Act, by including 'Gateway Telephone Exchange Project' for the purpose of concessional rate of customs duty under the aforesaid Heading, together with an explanatory memorandum thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-2259/86]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Deshmukh will continue his speech.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL) 1986-87— GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, I just brought to the notice of this august House two aspects of the Budget. One for the urban areas and one for the rural areas.